

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Washington, D. C. 20505

January 6, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: DIRECTOR CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: National Security Affairs Research Group

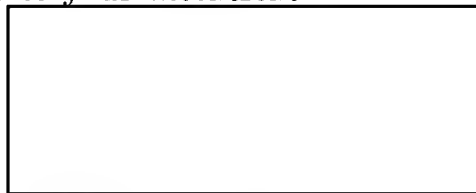
With the concurrence of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, The National War College is organizing a new project to be entitled the National Security Affairs Research Group. During the first year of operation the project will bring together at Fort McNair, for approximately ten months, six to ten carefully selected military officers and civilian employees of the U. S. Government. The group mission is not yet firm, but generally it will be to conduct joint, independent studies of U. S. national security interests, objectives, policies and strategy, the nature of modern war and related matters, with the goal of developing innovative strategic concepts and theories for consideration by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

As presently planned, officers selected as members of the group probably will focus their collective research and studies on one key yet fundamental issue. Removed from the pressures of operational environments, with time for thought and in an atmosphere conducive to creativity, the group will be encouraged to divorce themselves from problem-solving as such. It is anticipated that their efforts will develop original concepts and approaches of enduring value concerning the specific subject chosen for study and analysis.

The Director designate of the National Security Affairs Research Group, Colonel John M. Collins, USA, has advised me that he expects the new project to begin its first year of operation in August 1971. The group ideally will consist of 6 military officers and 2 civilians, GS-15 or above, preferably one from the Department of State and one from CIA. Members of the current class at The

National War College have been asked to indicate their interest in applying as candidates for the first year of the program. To the end of identifying the best possible talent, candidates from other senior military schools and from previous classes will also be offered an opportunity to indicate interest in participation. Finally, graduation from one of the senior schools or the Foreign Service Institute's Senior Seminar will be a prerequisite. Graduate degrees in related fields are desirable, but not mandatory.

Recognizing that the first year of operation of the program will be especially significant in establishing the character and credentials of the project, Colonel Collins is hopeful that the Agency will wish to identify one or more of its personnel as candidates for participation, and accordingly requested that I bring the foregoing information to your attention.



NWC Class of '71

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<b>Remarks:</b> Mr. Cunningham:  The last paragraph of [ ] memo suggests action on the part of the Director. If the NWC and the National Security Affairs Research Group are serious in requesting our participation, I would think that some formal communication from them might be appropriate and would assist in shopping the invitation around to the DDI and others for recommendation to the ExDir and the Director prior to any final decision. I have retained a copy of the attached for ExDir's review but would appreciate a call from you before you take any action in response to this note.					
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